Harps In Heaven

Tony Mauck · Revelation 14:1–3

INTRODUCTION

- Advocates of instrumental music in worship have used a number of arguments to justify the practice.
- No reputable translation of the scripture says play. Greek scholars do not translate the word solo, play in any circumstance. It is to sing.
- God wants us to praise him with our lips. He wants us to sing with our lips. He wants us to sing with one another.

1 Revelation Is a Book of Symbols and Figures

Revelation 14:1–3; Revelation 7:4–8

- The book of Revelation is a book of symbols and figures, images that represent ideas.
- If we take a symbol and try to press a literalism out of it, we do an injustice to the context.
- What John hears is a voice. He did not actually hear harps any more than he heard many waters or loud thunder.
- If we have justification for anything in Revelation chapter 14, it's singing.
- They didn't actually play harps. But what they did was sing.
- If one is going to find support for instrumental music in corporate worship, it will have to come from another passage and not Revelation 14.

2 The Deception of Wickedness

1 Corinthians 6:9; 2 Thessalonians 2:8–11; Hebrews 5:9

- A lack of respect for biblical authority that introduces into worship what God has not authorized.
- Wickedness is very deceiving. Look at how many people have been deceived on this matter.
- Warnings about deception are all over the New Testament.
- He deceives those who do not love the truth. There is a very powerful warning in that for us.
- God saves us, yes, but we must save ourselves from this perverse generation.
- He is the author of eternal salvation to all those who obey him.

3 The Devil's Trickery Should Not Be Underestimated

2 Corinthians 11

- There are not neon signs everywhere where the devil is working. He's very subtle. He's very persuasive.
- He wraps it in packages that sound very inviting.
- No wonder Satan transforms himself into an angel of light.
- He'll let you do a lot of things that are good and right if he can just exploit a single weakness.

- One area of compromise, one minor step, acting without authority.
- It seems like a small step, but the purpose changes.

4 The Hope of Heaven

Job 37; 2 Peter 1:5–11; Matthew 6:19–21

- Everything that surrounds and attends God's presence is awesome and beautiful and majestic and compelling.
- I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.
- Heaven must be in me before I can be in heaven. You don't go to heaven, but grow to heaven.
- Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven. Where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in and steal.
- People that obey the Lord do so because they want to lay up for themselves treasures in heaven.

THE CHALLENGE

Put on Christ. Reject the vain things of this world. Repent of sin in your past. Confess the wonderful name of Jesus and be immersed in water. So that you can rise to walk in newness of life and be a lover of the truth.

MY NOTES